

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria
SUBJECT 1. University Admission Requirements
2. Party and DSNM Activity at the University of Plovdiv

REPORT

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Admission to a Bulgarian University

- Admission to a Bulgarian university is, in most cases, based on an investigation of the candidate's loyalty to Communism and a competitive examination. Two months before taking the competitive examination, the candidate sends a notice to the cadre section of the okrug or city people's council, (depending on whether the candidate is from the country or the city) and the cadre section then undertakes to investigate the student. Questionnaires concerning the candidate and his relatives are sent to the state security, Communist Party committee, DSNM (Dimitrovski Soyuz Narodnata Mladezh: Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth) committee, Fatherland Front organization, school, village or city people's council, youth brigade, State enterprise, military regiment, and any other organized body with which the candidate has been involved, or which is located in his place of residence. If the candidate is reported to have been a member of the Brannik (Defender) organization, or an opposition group, he is barred from attending a Bulgarian university. In addition, he may be barred because of the "serious offenses" of close relatives. These could include being a former lawyer, a former army officer, a kulak, a non-member of the Fatherland Front organization, or having been tried by a people's court. If a student is denied the right to take the competitive examination on any of the above-listed grounds, he is regarded as an "enemy of the people".
- If the investigation of the candidate does not bring to light any derogatory information, the student is given a "formulary" which gives him the right to apply for the competitive examination. Copies of this formulary are sent to the cadre section and university youth section of the DSNM in the university which the candidate seeks to enter. These two organizations then again check the candidate's record, and often it happens that at this point the candidate is told that he may not take the examination.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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3. The competitive examination, which is no longer confidential, as it used to be, but a public affair, is designed to permit only the most reliable Communists to enter the university. There is a different examination for each faculty of the university: a written examination and an oral. The oral examines the candidate's specialty, such as chemistry and natural history for a medical school and history and the Bulgarian constitution for a law school. The written examinations deal mainly with themes concerning Stalin, Lenin, Marx, and Engels. One of the topics in 1951 was "The History of the Bulgarian Communist Party". The commission which conducts the examinations is entirely composed of loyal Communists.
4. In 1951, to the embarrassment of the Communists, the press announced vacancies in some faculties ten days after the competitive examinations had been given. This indicates that of the 20,000 - 25,000 applicants, most had to be rejected either by the cadres of the people's councils or by the cadre and DSNM sections in the university, leaving very few "true sons of the people" to fill the classrooms of the universities.
5. There are some students who do not have to take the competitive examinations to enter the universities, and some may even enter without the formulary. Communist students, for example, who are relatives of professors Eliser Yanev or Khristo Daskalov at Plovdiv University may enter without either the formulary or the competitive examination. Paitev (fnu), former chief of the administration office at Plovdiv University, always made sure that girls whom he liked were admitted to the university. In addition, 60 percent of the vacancies in a university are earmarked by a decree of the Council of Ministers for RABFAK (Rabotnicheski Fakultet: Labor Faculty) trainees. These candidates do not have to take the competitive examination. In addition, children of high Party and government officials or those who can pay the 20,000, 30,000, or even 50,000 leva (old currency) tuition, may often be able to enter without the usual formalities.

RABFAK

6. Because too many students who were not desired by the Communists entered the universities between 1945 and 1949, the Communists created RABFAK, which was supposed to be the new labor intelligentsia. Any Bulgarian youth can enroll in the universities through this organization provided he has completed three years in the gymnasium, is faithful to the Party, and has spent at least two years as a blue or white collar worker. Such students must, if they wish to enter a university, take a preparatory course lasting one year if they have a third class education, six months if they have a fifth class education, and two months if they have not completed their gymnasium studies but have gone further than the fifth class. Sixty percent of all university openings are reserved for RABFAK members, who are admitted without entrance examinations.¹

Comment: [] a different account of the nature of RABFAK, describing it as an actual school, apparently comparable to the lower level of a university, which students may enter after taking preparatory Party (not RABFAK) courses.

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